

Tips on finding a practicum

- Get to know 2nd year students who have already done a practicum to find out more information about what worked best in their placement
- Make an effort to network at events by introducing yourself to people from agencies
- Ask a lot of questions to agencies regarding their placements

Tips on finding a practicum

#1 Know the site/organization!

Do research about potential sites/organizations to identify:

- the scope of practice within the public health organizational setting you are interested in
- the strategies, program(s) and intervention(s) of the organization to address this population and public health issue
- the stakeholders and partners that are important for this area of public health practice
- the challenges faced by this area of public health practice and the strategies that have been developed to respond to these challenges

#2 Know thyself!

Ask yourself:

- What am I good at/not good at?
- What sorts of tasks do I want to do during my practicum?
- What sorts of tasks do I not want to do?
- What might I be able to do with the right guidance from my preceptor?

#3 Critically assess your fit!

Assess your 'fit' with this area of practice and identify the competencies and skills you feel you would need to function within this area as well as the challenges to become acculturated into this area of practice.





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- We may find security in pigeonholing ourselves early on as a way of branding or self-promoting such as “expertise in cancer research” but as a student trainee, it is imperative to gain exposure in varying topics, project activities and network with people from different areas
- It is okay to explore your interests because you are gaining skills that meet the public health core competencies
- Focus on transferrable skills!

Tips on finding a practicum

1. Think long-term, i.e. think about the direction of your career
2. Decide which core competencies are important for career development and for achieving practicum learning goals
3. Determine which organizations would support development of these career and practicum goals

Choosing your practicum placement...

- Consider your goals for the practicum, such as learning about a particular topic or new skills, enhancing existing skills, networking, or experiencing a unique opportunity that might not otherwise be available [for example, international placement]
- Use the practicum as an opportunity to build on the skills that you are going to need for your future career with any organization (not just a job with your practicum organization)
- Enlist the assistance of your school's practicum coordinator

Lisa Metselaar
Career Development Coordinator
MPH Program, Western University